

# The Squadron EAA Warbird Squadron 4 News



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A newsletter for Squadron members and friends of Warbird aircraft.

March 2001

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**Squadron 4 Meeting**  
**Quarterly Meeting**  
**Sunday March 25, 2001**

Our next meeting of Squadron 4 will be held in the Chapter 579 hangar at Aurora airport. Two speakers are planned to conduct presentations. One will be one of Squadron 4 warbird pilot / member, Craig Payne. Weather permitting, Craig will bring his warbird to the meeting and give us some info on this aircraft Chinese Nanchang. Also scheduled to speak is Capt. Bob Severson a C-47 pilot that flew "The Hump" in the China -Burma - India Theater in WWII. He flew 223 missions during his service. On one occasion his aircraft was severely damaged by a Japanese attack. He and his entire crew were casualties. Capt. Severson aborted the mission and landed at a small remote airstrip in the mountains to seek medical attention for him and his crew. There has to be other stories to tell about some of the other 222 missions Capt. Severson flew in this rugged and dangerous area of operations. Please join us for some socializing, lunch and some very interesting presentations. To access the Chapter 579 hangar, park in the main lot, enter the tarmac area through the gate next to the gated driveway on the right side of the parking lot. We will be in the first hangar on the right. Details of the meeting are as follows:

**Doors open 11:00 AM**  
**General Meeting 11:30 AM**  
**Lunch 12:00 PM**  
**Presentations 1:00 PM**  
**Cost Members \$7:00 Non-members \$10.00**



### The C.O.'s Desk

Greetings Squadron 4, I hope that you are all in good health and spirits. I'm sure that all of you, myself included, are eagerly awaiting the arrival of spring sooner or later; let's wish for sooner. This is the time of the year when the fun stuff, (fun?) of winter is behind us. As always, the warm weather will be on time and then the convertibles and airplanes will be out in force! Hopefully the weather gods will smile upon us for our meeting at the end of this month. But regardless of the weather, it's a good time to come out to Aurora and catch up on things with the rest of the group. As a side note, let me have your thoughts on making a donation to the WW II memorial in Washington D.C. from Squadron 4 resources. I need a yes or a no and a recommended dollar amount if we deduced to donate. See you on the 25th!

BE SAFE OUT THERE! And "Keep Em Flying"  
**Jim Delaney - The C.O.**

### Recap of Squadron 4 Meeting



**January Awards Dinner 2001**

The January awards banquet was a great success. About 45 members and guests attended this function. We were treated with a delicious meal, great company and a fabulous presentation by the squadron founder and past commander, Will "Indiana Jones" Martin. Will took us on a slide tour of his flying adventures in Latin America in the 1960's. Will was purchasing and returning P-51 Mustangs and P-47's from Latin America and in exchange for some B-25's and A-20's. He also described how difficult and dangerous these excursions became. Have you ever dealt with a banana republic dictator with armed bodyguards, or been arrested for the assassination of a U.S. president, or been taken down a remote jungle river by machete wielding native escorts or wind up plowing a sugar cane field with a P-51 Mustang? No this is not the script for "Mission Impossible III", these events were part of the adventures Will experienced during his stay and during his flights in Latin America and he had the pictures to prove it! This was an exciting and fascinating story of an American pilot in a foreign country. Thank you Will for a great evening!

There were awards given to our members for their contributions to the squadron. They included Craig Payne, Ray Hilson, Will Martin, and Tom Buck for the numerous times they provided our squadron with warbird demonstrations, rides and fly-bys. Also honored was Ted Koston for his centerfold photo layouts for the newsletter. And finally, Mark Laatsch and Ron Molinets were elected the newest Colonels in the squadron for their ongoing contributions as Executive officer and Information officer.

**Military Aviation History**



## "Flying the Hump"

When the Japanese captured Rangoon in March 1942, a new route had to be found to reach the Burma Road, China's lifeline. The only remaining supply route was by air. Cargo had to be flown over the towering Himalayan Mountains from the Brahma aputra valley in eastern India to Kunming in Yunnan province in China, a distance of some 350 miles. This route included the 15,000-foot Satsung mountain range, "The Hump", between the Salween and Mekong rivers. The route was also called the Aluminum trail because of the crashed planes that served as guideposts. This route was established in April 1942 and by mid-summer of that year delivery had totaled 700 tons a month. A handful of C-47's pioneered the operation which eventually gave way to larger and more numerous types -- C-87's, and C-109 tankers, C-46's and C-54's. In the final year the route over the Hump averaged some 45,000 tons per month. The total carried from 1942 to 1945 was 650,000 tons.

### Other Warbird Events

Sat. April 21st Aurora ARR Hangar Dance  
Fri. June 8th Illinois Military Hall Of fame Induction  
Banquet and Ceremony (Capt. Chuck Downey will be  
Inducted) at Frasca field, Urbana  
June 9 -10 Frasca Field Fly-in Urbana, IL.

### Squadron 4 Year 2001 Calendar of Events

The following dates are tentatively planned for 2001

<i>Sun. Mar. 25, 2001</i>	<i>Quarterly Meeting - Aurora</i>
<i>Sat. Jun. 23, 2001</i>	<i>Quarterly meeting</i>
<i>Aug. 11, 2001</i>	<i>Annual BBQ</i>
<i>Sun. Sept. 23, 2001</i>	<i>Quarterly meeting</i>
<i>Sun. Nov. 25, 2001</i>	<i>Quarterly meeting</i>
<i>???????</i>	<i>Trip to Pensacola</i>

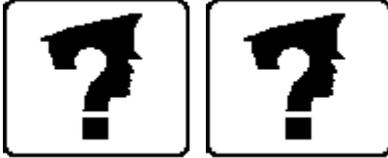
### Potential Future Squadron Events Speakers

*Warbird air racers, Flying the B-36, P-38  
Mechanic, Local Private Aircraft Collections  
tours are a few of the events the board of  
directors are in the process of scheduling for  
future dates. If you have any suggestions or  
access to other interesting programs or  
speakers let the C.O. know.*

## **We are on The Web!**

To view our web site via the E.A.A. site, access the local warbird squadron's link and select Squadron 4 or visit our site directly at [www.warbirdsquadron4.org](http://www.warbirdsquadron4.org). If you have any comments, possible additions or suggestions for our web site contact Brian Churchill (see officers), or leave an e-mail at the site.

### **WWII Trivia**



*The name "phoebe" is associated with what significant event in WWII?*

*Answer: It was the name of the P-38 flown by Tom Lanphiers who was credited with shooting down Admiral Yamamoto on April 18, 1943*

## **Warbird Squadron 4 Photo Album**

Photos taken by Ron Molinets



